

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 20 and 27 have been amended, and claims 3 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-25 and 27-37 are pending. Support for the instant amendments is provided throughout the as-filed application. Thus, no new matter has been added. In view of the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3, 4, and 26-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. [See Office Action, page 14]. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 3. Similarly, independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 26. The subject matter of claims 3 and 26 is substantially similar (i.e., the first deposition material is supplied to the plasma in a volatile state.). Moreover, claim 26, as originally filed, depended from independent claim 20 and does not rely on any of the particulars of claims 21 and 23 for antecedent basis.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 20 are in a condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2, 4-19, 21-25 and 27-37 are allowable because they depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 20, as well as for the further features they recite.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action:

I. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-15, 17-25, 30, and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0193857 A1 to Ichibara, *et al.* (hereinafter "Ichibara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,903,511 B2 to Chistyakov (hereinafter "Chistyakov");

II. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ichibara and Chistyakov as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0016017 A1 to Sakai, *et al.* (hereinafter "Sakai");

III. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ichibara and Chistyakov as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,081,272 B2 to Sasaki, *et al.* (hereinafter "Sasaki");

IV. Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ichibara and Chistyakov as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,468,520 to Williams, *et al.* (hereinafter "Williams");

V. Claims 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ichibara and Chistyakov as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0228727 A1 to Guerra (hereinafter "Guerra"); and

VI. Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ichibara and Chistyakov as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shibata.

Applicant disagrees with the propriety of these rejections. However, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has incorporated allowable subject matter into independent claims 1 and 20 rendering the aforementioned rejections moot. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

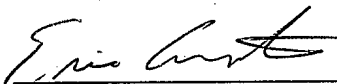
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

If an extension of time is necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such an extension of time is hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 033975** (Ref. No. **008895-0355438**).

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Respectfully submitted,

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